Also a National level Monitoring Committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of MOS(WCD) to oversee the functioning of ICDS Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled within the overall framework of the ICDS Scheme.

Expansion of anganwadi scheme

†115. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently given an order for comprehensive expansion of anganwadi scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any action plan in view of the Supreme Court order;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when this scheme is likely to be implemented completely in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 13.12.06 in Writ Petition No. 196 of 2001 filed by Peoples Union of Civil Liberties *Vs* Union of India and Others, has given certain directions. The operative part of the directions is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) In pursuance of the earlier direction of Supreme Court passed on 29.4.2004, the ICDS Scheme has been expanded twice. During the 1st Phase of expansion in the year 2005-06, 466 ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) were sanctioned. The Second phase of expansion, based on the revised population norms recommended by the Inter-Ministerial Task Force, for 173 additional ICDS Projects, 1.07 lakh AWCs and 25961 Mini-AWCs was approved in December, 2006. With this

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

expansion, the total number of sanctioned projects, AWCs and Mini-AWCs have gone upto 6291, 10.53 lakh and 36847 respectively from 5652 and 6.01 lakh ICDS projects and AWCs respectively, as on March, 2002. As a result of the expansion of ICDS scheme and other measures, the number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition has increased to 5.43 crores in September, 2006 from 3.15 crores in March, 2002.

To achieve universalisation of ICDS as per the Supreme Court's direction, further relaxation of the population norms has been recommended by Inter-Ministerial Task Force. After the Report of the Task Force is approved by the competent authority, further action for working out the requirement of additional ICDS projects/AWCs/Mini-AWCs to universalize the ICDS Scheme would be taken as per the time stipulated by the Supreme Court.

The States/UTs have already been requested to furnish a list of un-covered habitations, along with population, which would require additional Anganwadi Centres/Mini-AWCs in their States. In doing so they have also been requested to identify SC and ST hamlets/habitations for setting up AWCs and also to ensure that no habitation/settlement with predominantly SC/ST/Minority population, is left out.

Statement

The operative part of directions given by Supreme Court in respect of Anganwadi Scheme

(1) Government of India shall, sanction and operationalize a minimum of 14 lakh AWCs in a phased and even manner starting forthwith and ending December, 2008. In doing so, the Central Government shall identify SC and ST hamlets/habitations for AWCs on a priority basis.

(2) Government of India shall ensure that population norms for opening of AWCs must not be revised upward under any circumstances. While maintaining the upper limit of one AWC per 1000 population, the minimum limit for opening of a new AWC is a population of 300 may be kept in view. Further, rural communities and slum dwellers should be entitled to an "Anganwadi on demand" (not later than three months) from the

date of demand in cases where a settlement has at least 40 children under six but no Anganwadi.

(3) The universalisation of the ICDS involves extending all ICDS services (Supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, nutrition and health education, immunization, referral and pre-school education) to every child under the age of 6, all pregnant women and lactating mothers and all adolescent girls.

Financial assistance for establishment of Juvenile Homes

116. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of NGOs who have been provided financial assistance for establishment and maintenance of Juvenile homes by the Central Government through State Governments/UTs during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure that the fund so extended is spent judiciously by the NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development provides financial assistance under the scheme 'A Programme for Juvenile Justice' to the State Governments/UT Administrations for establishment and maintenance of State run as well as NGO run juvenile homes set up under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 According to details provided by State Governments/UT Administrations, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has provided assistance to NGO run homes during 2005-06 and 2006-07 as given in the statement available on the Ministry's website www.wcd.nic.in

(b) The steps taken are as under:

(i) the grant-in-aid is released to the State Governments/UT Administrations only after receipts of proper Utilisation Certificates of the previous grants. (ii) officials of the Ministry carry out inspection of the juvenile homes and reports of the shortcomings are shared with State Governments appropriate action. (iii) evaluation study has also been got